

# **U.S. NRC Incident Response Activities**

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# NRC Event Communications

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- NRC response roles
- Initial notification of an Emergency Classification
- Communications with NRC in response
- Physical Attack
- Imminent Threat Process

# NRC Incident Response Roles

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- Independent assessment of licensee activities/plant conditions
- Independent assessment of licensee Protective Action Recommendations (PARS)
- Support off-site officials
- Federal liaison
- Media interaction

# NRC Response Decision-making

- Licensee notifies NRC as soon as possible but within 60 minutes of the emergency declaration
  - Brief Headquarters Operations Officer
- Headquarters Operations Officer notifies Decision makers
  - Licensee remains on line if possible to answer specific questions
- Event details requested from the licensee communicator:
  - Description of the event,
  - Significance of the event,
  - Status of the plant (and equipment),
  - Potential for degrading conditions, etc.
- Communicator knowledgeable on:
  - Plant operations
  - Current plant status

# Response Modes

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## Monitoring – Region leads response

- Events are understood
- Not a danger to public health and safety
- Communications
  - Licensee – Region on Emergency Notification System (ENS) Bridge

## Activation/Expanded Activation

- Incident complex or uncertain
- Involves terrorist activities
- NRC Headquarters in the Lead from the Operations Center
  - Executive Team (ET) Member (Chairman ET Director)
  - Regional Site Team at Licensee
- Communications
  - Emergency Notification System – Plant conditions/status
  - Health Physics Network – Protective Measures/Protective Action Recommendations
  - Safeguards Team Bridge – Security and Threat
  - Licensee Management



# Expected Level of Communications

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- **Emergency Notification System (ENS)**
  - Open line at Alert or higher or any NRC activation
    - If NRC remains in NORMAL MODE the communicator is normally allowed to hang up
  - Access to plant data or status boards
  - Operational/engineering knowledge
  - Update NRC on Changing Plant Conditions or Emergency Classifications
  - Site security response

# Expected Level of Communications

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- **Health Physics Network**
  - Open line at the request of NRC
  - Expected information (RIS 2002-16)
    - Status of radiological releases
    - Classification
    - Protective Action Recommendations
    - Status of event – mitigation activities/success
- **Safeguards Team Bridge**
  - At the request of NRC
  - Not normally an open line
  - Site security and Local Law Enforcement response

# Key Information Needs

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- Status of Reactor Core
- Status of Reactor Cooling Systems
- Status of Containment
- Challenges to above
- Operational Priorities
- Operations planned/underway which may result in significant Dose Rate Changes on/offsite
- Operations planned that require Radiation Safety Evaluation/Support
- Likely release paths



# Physical Attack

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- Licensee required to give accelerated notification (<15 min) to NRC
- Authentication Code verified by NRC
- Key details provided by caller/licensee
  - Facility
  - Classification of Emergency
  - Nature of attack (armed assault, vehicle bomb)
  - Attack status (Imminent, in-progress, repelled)
- Licensee **does not** maintain an open line

# Physical Attack Response

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- HQ Emergency Response Officer (HERO)
  - Call ALL Reactor and Fuel Cycle Facilities (Blast dial)
    - Authentication Code
    - Request licensee consider an increase in security posture
  - Call HQ and All Region's Information Assessment Teams
    - Obtain Region point of Contact
- HQ Operations Officer (HOO)
  - DHS and FBI
  - NRC Decision Makers (Blast Dial)
  - Response Staffing
- Licensee **does not** maintain an open line

# Aircraft Threat

- Federal Aviation Administration or Department of Defense notifies NRC of aircraft threat
  - HQ Emergency Response Officer maintains continuous communications with the information source
  - HOO briefs licensee and NRC Senior Manager of key information
  - HOO will use the authentication code
- Key conference participants
  - HOO
  - Licensee **dedicated** communicator
  - NRC Senior manager
    - Ensures licensee performs imminent aircraft threat procedures if appropriate
    - Delegated authority to issue immediately effective verbal orders to NRC licensee

# For More Information

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